



NEWS RELEASE

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Caltrans Celebrates the Devil's Slide Tunnel "Punch Through"

San Mateo County – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) celebrated today the "punch-through" of the north portal of the Devil's Slide Tunnel on State Route 1 (SR-1) in San Mateo County. To the cheers of the assembled crowd, crews operating the massive excavator bored through the barrier – a retaining wall on the northern end of the tunnel.

Caltrans broke ground on the tunnels on September 17, 2007. The tunnels will replace a stretch of (SR-1) known as "Devil's Slide" that was subject to numerous rockslides and slip-outs. At times, the highway was subject to long-term road closures due to extensive weather damage. Financed entirely with federal funding, the \$300 million dollar tunnels, each just over four thousand feet long, are expected to be completed in early 2012.

"This is a thrilling and historic milestone," said Caltrans Director Cindy McKim. "We are well on our way to completing these tunnels and ending, once and for all, road closures that have impacted the local communities."

Once the tunnels are open to traffic, Caltrans will relinquish the property to San Mateo County. Future plans for the property include a new park with bicycle and pedestrian pathways.

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